F. McGregor B-3 (1922-1924) [illegible]
[illegible] McGregor [illegible]

CHAPTER III

WARFARE*

General Observations — Specific Accounts

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

721 698 PRIOR to the establishment of British rule, there was considerable warfare among the coastal tribes of British Columbia. Long-continued struggles leading to the extermination of one or other of the participants were unknown, but there were common raids, counter-raids, forays, and attacks. These were never as continuous as on the Plains, where martial achievements were regarded more highly than on the coast, but it appears probable that at least several villages of the Bella Coola were embroiled every few years. Nevertheless, [194] war was secondary in importance to ceremonial rites. During the winter, peace reigned and members of hostile tribes were [358] even received as guests at some dances. At potlatches they might be subjected to insult, later to be avenged in the same manner or by active hostility, but seldom was actual violence offered either to envoys or guests. The symbol of peace and 724 friendliness was eagle down; the occupants of a canoe who 825 bore an invitation to a potlatch, or who were guests them- 778 selves, used to blow this substance up into the air whenever another craft approached, and it was incumbent on the latter [484] to veer over to the other side of the channel. Eagle down was [578] considered to be so sacred that when two men were quarrelling [622] a chief could stop them by blowing some of it over their heads.

721 In winter, hostilities were prevented by ceremonies, and in summer the people were usually busy laying in supplies of food; consequently, it was only in the late spring that fighting was [575] at all common. Even then the dictates of ceremonial life were [622] not entirely forgotten; no *Austal* novice went to war and

*Warfare having long been discontinued, the past tense is used throughout this chapter.